

of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

EXCELLENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA'S MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, from time to time historians like to engage in a sort of parlor game in speculating whether circumstances create great leaders or whether leaders serve as the catalyst for great change.

In my view, there's no doubt that greatness springs from the character of individuals. President Reagan understood this fundamental truth. He also understood that the American people, particularly the men and women in our armed services, will meet any challenge with proper encouragement to strive for excellence.

Ronald Reagan's faith in the American people enabled him to inspire our citizens and to restore our collective confidence at a critical time in America's history. Inheriting a military in decline and a nation said to be in a "malaise" by his immediate predecessor, President Reagan chose not to shrink from the enormous challenges facing our Nation.

Instead, he stood firm in his resolve. Overcoming the predictable partisan criticism, he successfully rebuilt our national defense and restored United States power and prestige throughout the world.

In 1984, in rebuilding our military, President Reagan established the Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence. In doing so, he issued an open challenge to the men and women responsible for defending the United States of America: That they do the "best job with their resources to support our mission," and that "they seek out the most imaginative and innovative solutions to the many complex problems [they] face."

Mr. President, ever since Ronald Reagan's first presentation in 1985, the Commander-in-Chief's Award has served as the highest commendation for a military installation. It is a tangible recognition of the hard work, dedication, innovation, and professionalism of the service-members and civilians who serve in our armed forces. (In each year since, only five awards have been presented only to the most outstanding installation of the four service branches and the Defense Logistics Agency.)

This year, for only the second time in history, three installations in a single state rose to President Reagan's challenge and were presented during the same year with the Commander-in-Chief's Award.

In ceremonies at the Pentagon last week, Mr. President, representatives of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Fort Bragg, and Camp Lejeune—all three in

North Carolina—were present to receive this well-deserved recognition on behalf of their respective services.

Though this is just the second time a state has accomplished this remarkable feat, North Carolina installations have been honored frequently in previous Commander-in-Chief Award ceremonies. In fact, North Carolina installations have won a total of 13 awards, more than any other state.

By the way, Mr. President, North Carolina also has the distinction of having been home to the base that has won the award more often than any other in the country. While not selected this year, the Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station has won its services' award on six occasions overall, four times in the past six years.

In fact, North Carolina's two Marine Corps bases have so dominated the award that they have won it a total of ten times and kept it in our state for the past six years.

Mr. President, I submit that it is no accident that North Carolina's military installations fare so well in this annual competition. The communities which embrace our bases—Goldsboro, Fayetteville, Jacksonville and Havelock—are filled with patriots who do everything possible to support the young men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our great nation. These North Carolina communities work closely with our installation commanders to support their efforts to make certain that our servicemen and women have everything they need to safely and successfully accomplish their missions and to improve the quality of their lives.

In 1984, President Reagan appealed to the best instincts of the men and women in our military when he established this annual award. In so doing, he has helped highlight a legacy of excellence among the installations in my home state.

Mr. President, needless to say, I'm extremely proud of our bases and communities and their achievements.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, May 4, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,641,702,535,760.39, five trillion, six hundred forty-one billion, seven hundred two million, five hundred thirty-five thousand, seven hundred sixty dollars and thirty-nine cents.

One year ago, May 4, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,661,533,000,000, five trillion, six hundred sixty-one billion, five hundred thirty-three million.

Twenty-five years ago, May 4, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$595,840,000,000, five hundred ninety-five billion, eight hundred forty million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,045,862,535,760.39, five trillion, forty-five billion, eight hundred sixty-two million, five hundred thirty-five thousand, seven hundred sixty dollars and thirty-nine cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF AUSTIN GUNDER, "F1J" WORLD CHAMPION

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Austin Gunder, a 15-year-old freshman at Red Lion High School in York County, PA. Austin recently competed with the U.S. Junior Aeronautic International Free Flight Model Aircraft Team in the Junior World Championship Contest held in Seaimovo Usti, Czech Republic.

A member of a six-person team selected by the Academy of Model Aeronautics, AMA, Austin achieved the World Champion Ranking in what is known as the "F1J" or the powered event. This event involves taking a model airplane designed and constructed by the contestant, putting a very small engine and propeller on it, launching it vertically for an exact period of no more than seven seconds to the highest obtainable altitude, and then having the engine shut off with the airplane going horizontal at exactly the right time to start its timed free flight glide. This is all done by adjusting the small airplane to obtain peak performance, and by testing and practicing to assure that every operation is perfect. The contestant must calculate the most favorable temperature and winds for the 10-minute window in which to fly. Austin was the only U.S. competitor, and he achieved World Champion Ranking 9 minutes into his flight beating out 13 other contestants from all over the world who competed in the event.

Austin Gunder was featured on the cover of the February 2001 issue of Model Aviation, the official publication of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, and will be honored at his high school by the Federal Aviation Administration. Austin's World Champion status in the "F1J" competition is the highest honor of the model airplane organization.

Austin Gunder is an outstanding young man and a great example for youth in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the country. I personally commend him for his accomplishments in the field of aeronautics and wish him the very best as he prepares himself for the future challenges that lie ahead. •

RECOGNITION OF HEATHER EAGLESTON

• Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Miss Heather Eagleston of Mountain Home, AR. Heather recently won the Arkansas 2001 "RespecTeen Speak for Yourself" Contest. In her entry letter, Heather passionately described her personal experience with her brother's tragic accident and resulting paralysis and the problems he now faces everyday with disabilities discrimination. It was for families like this one that we passed